

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A belt tensioner for a conveyor comprising two or more endless belts, the belt tensioner comprising:

an axle member mounted to the conveyor transversely to the belts;

the first bracket assembly for each belt pivotally mounted to the axle member;

a tensioning pulley associated with each belt mounted for rotation with respect to its associated first bracket assembly;

a second bracket assembly pivotally mounted to the axle member;

an actuator connected to the second bracket assembly for pivoting the second bracket assembly about the axle member; and

a lost motion connector connecting each first bracket assembly to the second bracket assembly,

whereby, when said second bracket assembly is pivoted by the actuator about the axle member in a direction to apply tension to the belts, each bracket is tensioned individually to approximately the same tension.

15. (Original) The belt tensioner of Claim 14 wherein the lost-motion connector that limits the amount of independent movement

of each of the first bracket assemblies with respect to the second bracket assembly.

16. (Original) The belt tensioner of Claim 15 wherein the lost-motion structure comprises a resilient member connecting each first bracket assembly to the second bracket assembly and a bar associated with the second bracket assembly, the bar being captured in a slot in each of the first bracket assemblies.

17. (Original) The belt tensioner of Claim 14 wherein the actuator comprises a piston capable of applying between approximately 35 to 60 lbs. of force on the second bracket assembly.